

President Reagan recognized that there were janitors who were literally paying more in taxes than the profitable corporations that they worked for. So the Alternative Minimum Tax was imposed, and it has been in place since 1986. But in this Chamber, just a few days ago, we voted to eliminate that tax and to refund the money that had been paid by these profitable corporations since 1986, what is estimated to be approximately \$24 billion that would be given back, with no strings attached. We are doing that at the same time we are putting burdens on the backs of our veterans.

What we have done, basically, is to require veterans to pay more for their health care at the same time we are giving huge tax breaks and tax give-backs to profitable corporations. It is unacceptable.

Madam Speaker, I have introduced H.R. 2820, a bill that would simply return the copay to \$2, at a level it has been for quite some time, and it would freeze it at the \$2 level for the next 5 years. It seems to me that this is the least we can do for these men and women who have served our country.

Now, I believe this is something that this House will be willing to do, and I am calling upon my colleagues of both political parties to sign on to this legislation. Thus far, I have acquired about 70 cosponsors, Republicans and Democrats alike.

I would like to point out that the co-introducer of this legislation with me is a Republican, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY). The gentleman from Ohio and I are hopeful that all of our colleagues in this House will join us in the effort to reduce this burden upon our veterans, and we will be grateful if they do, and I am sure the veterans in this country will be grateful as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IN MEMORY OF STATE SENATOR CLIVE L. DUVAL II

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of one of Virginia's finest and most respected public figures. Clive L. DuVal II passed away on Monday, February 25. But his legacy of leadership on the environment, on consumer rights, on civil rights, and good government will leave a lasting impression on the Commonwealth of Virginia for decades to come.

Born in New York City, Senator DuVal came to embody the definition of a Virginia gentleman, serving in the

House of Delegates for 6 years and as a State Senator from 1972 until his retirement in 1992. Educated at Yale where he received his law degree, Senator DuVal went on to serve as a lieutenant commander in the Navy's 16th Air Group during World War II. After the war, he served at the Department of Defense as a lawyer, later becoming general counsel for the U.S. Information Agency in 1955.

Senator DuVal got his political start standing up against the controversial land use dispute over the Merrywood estate in McLean, Virginia. Citing illegal zoning practices, Senator DuVal helped persuade the U.S. Interior Department to join the effort, and it led to the successful prevention of high-rise developments along the Potomac River.

These concerns for the environment continued throughout Senator DuVal's legislative career. Known as a stalwart defender of the little guy, Senator DuVal rose to become the head of the Northern Virginia delegation. He eventually assumed the chairmanship of the Democratic Caucus and successfully used that position in fighting for progressive priorities. During all the budget agreements, as they would be worked out behind closed doors, we knew he was there fighting for the right priorities.

Senator DuVal left an indelible mark on everyone with whom he served. His courageous stands on civil rights and on women's rights made a great difference in Virginia's social progress. He was always admired by his colleagues for his velvet glove approach to the toughest of legislative battles, a good personal friend and an inspiration to so many of us looking for examples of successful progressive leadership in Virginia.

Madam Speaker, I stand today in salute of Senator DuVal's life's work. He was a role model for us all and a great American, and we will miss him dearly.

LAND LOSS SUFFERED BY AFRICAN AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I am pleased to come to the House floor to speak in honor of Black history month. In 1926, Carter G. Woodson started Black history week to bring national attention to the contributions of Black people to this nation. Since 1976, Americans annually recognize February as Black history month. This year's theme, "[t]he Color Line Revisited, Is Racism Dead?," reminds us as a nation to examine our haunted past, while affording us an opportunity to appreciate how African-Americans have been instrumental in shaping the spirit of our nation, despite the barriers imposed by racism. As I take this opportunity to recognize the triumphs of African-Americans, I would be remiss if I did

not recognize the losses we have suffered. I would like to recount one particularly painful loss endured by African-Americans, that of land loss. Madam Speaker, on January 12, 1865, General William T. Sherman met with 20 black community leaders of Savannah, Georgia. The following day, General Sherman issued Special Field Order Number 15 which set aside the Sea Islands off the Georgia coast and a 30-mile tract of land along the southern coast of South Carolina for the exclusive settlement of black families. This land, along with other confiscated and abandoned land, fell under the jurisdiction of the Freedmen's Bureau, a government entity created to assist former slaves. Each family was to receive 40 acres of land and an Army mule to work the land, thus the origin of "40 acres and a mule."

The Freedmen's Bureau lent a helping hand to former slaves in their newfound freedom by assisting them in taking advantage of the government's promise of land and a chance at prosperity. Unfortunately, the government never lived up to its promise of 40 acres and a mule. During the fall of 1865, President Andrew Johnson issued special pardons which returned the confiscated property of many ex-Confederates. The Freedmen's Bureau was stripped of most of its power, and much of the land that had been leased to black farmers was taken and returned to the Confederates.

Nevertheless, despite the absence of government assistance, many African-Americans on their own managed to purchase land. Despite the failure of our Federal Government to make good on a promise of assistance and despite open hostility and racial discrimination, between the end of the Civil War and 1910, African American families in the South amassed a land base of over 15 million acres.

□ 1730

This was by no means an easily accomplished feat. Many sacrifices were made, and much hard work went into the efforts of African Americans to fulfill the American dream and own their own land. By 1920, there were 925,000 African American farmers. In 1999, the figures had dropped to less than 17,000 African American farmers with less than 3 million acres of land.

Fast forward to the year 2002, and many of us in the African American community look back on a promise made to us in 1865 that was never realized. We have to acknowledge the fact that not only did the government fail black farmers and landowners in 1865, it seems that the government has played an active role in depriving African Americans of property acquired through their own hard work and sacrifices. In some cases, the government approved taking lands from African Americans; in others, it actually participated.